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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It is with deep concern that I inform you of an extremely serious incident for which the Republic of Armenia bears the responsibility.

On 20 November 1993 at 11 a.m. local time, while crossing the Azerbaijani-Armenian border in the area of the Kazakh district of the Azerbaijani Republic in accordance with an agreement previously reached between the two sides, the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation, Ambassador for Special Assignments V. N. Kazimirov, and the persons accompanying him came under heavy fire from the Armenian side. Azerbaijani military personnel accompanying the Russian representative were seriously wounded.

The mediator's group was fired on by Armenian units using anti-aircraft artillery, armoured vehicles and heavy-calibre machine guns at a time when it was between the Azerbaijani settlement of Mazam and the Azerbaijani village of Ashagy Askipara occupied by armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, in the Kazakh district, hundreds of kilometres from Nagorny Karabakh.

In our letters, particularly documents S/25650, S/25752 and S/26556, we have drawn the attention of the Security Council to the fact that part of the territory of the Kazakh district is occupied by armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

Clearly, Armenia does not confine itself to committing aggression against Azerbaijan, but is also using weapons against a peaceful mediating mission which is in the region to conduct talks on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993).

As noted in a statement by the Council of Ministers and the Government of the Russian Federation, "the Government of the Russian Federation strongly condemns this unprecedented action in gross violation of the norms of international law, and calls on Armenia's top leadership to make an immediate public apology and to undertake for the future to provide strict guarantees of the security of Russian representatives engaged on official missions. The Government of the Russian Federation expects those guilty of this crime to be brought to trial, and reserves the right to take the most decisive measures to prevent the repetition of such incidents henceforth".

This action by the Armenian side was most strongly condemned in the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, V. A. Kozyrev, on 20 November 1993, which read in part: "Today, while crossing the Azerbaijani-Armenian border, the vehicles of the Special Representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador V. N. Kazimirov, and his accompanying group came under fire from heavy calibre weapons on the Armenian side. As a result, Azerbaijani military personnel accompanying the Russian representative were wounded. Ambassador Kazimirov is in the region on a peace-keeping mission. I personally agreed with Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders, on the instructions of B. N. Yeltsin, on his visits to Baku, Erevan and Stepanakert. This barbaric action against a Russian representative arouses indignation, and cannot be justified. Official explanations are being called for. Once the circumstances of what occurred have been clarified, the Government of the Russian Federation will draw the most serious and, I think, severe conclusions".

As reported by the press agency ITAR-TASS in a bulletin of 22 November 1993, at a press conference held that same day on the subject of the above incident, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, V. A. Kozyrev, stated that "this is an exceptionally serious occurrence. One has the impression that this is not simply an incident, but that there is a policy behind it." Further on in the bulletin, the agency reports that the Russian Minister emphasized that "Moscow calls on the top Armenian leadership to make an immediate public apology and to undertake for the future to provide strict guarantees of the security of Russian representatives engaged on official missions". He termed the explanation given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia "an unintelligible paper which the Russian side cannot accept".

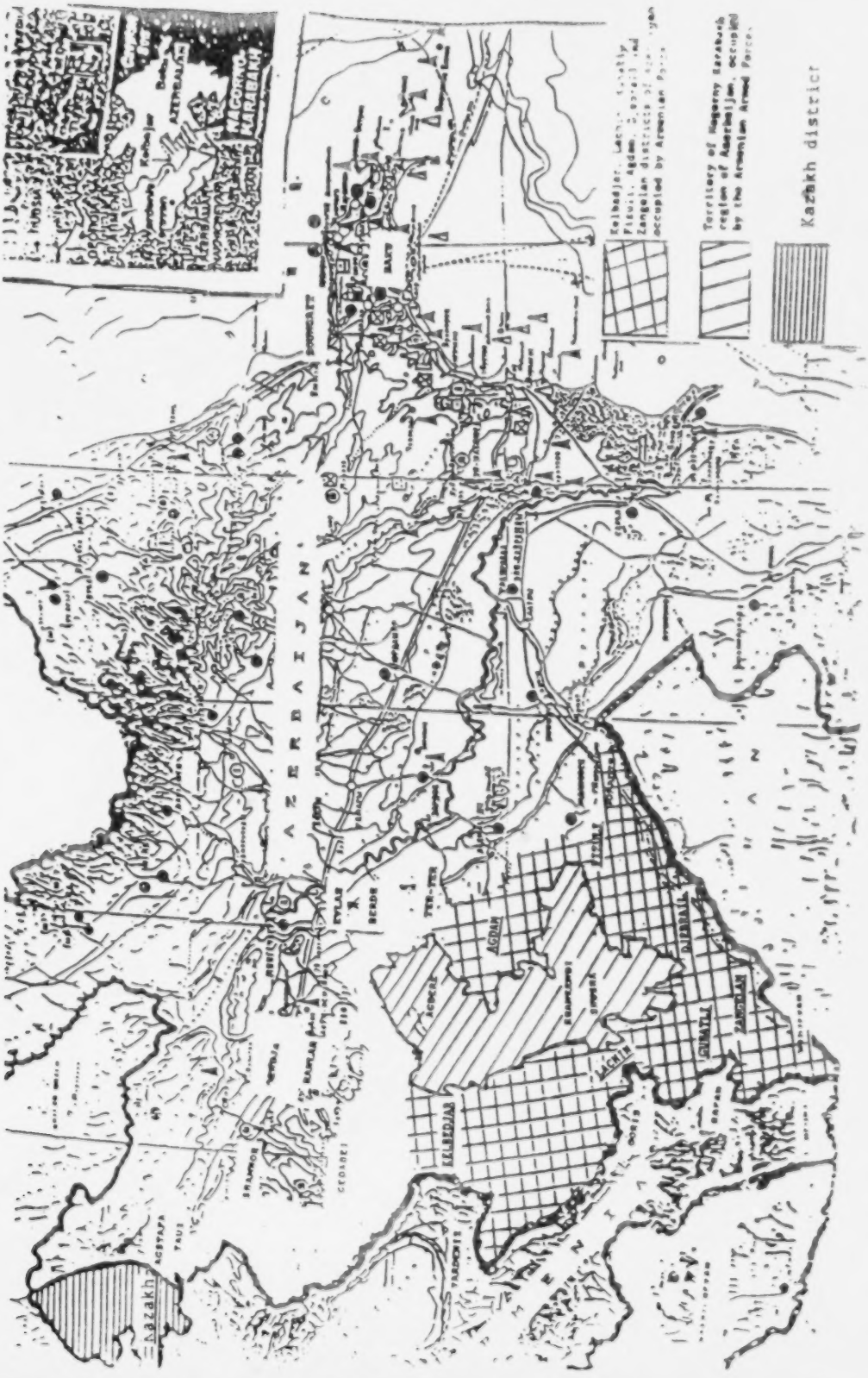
The Azerbaijani Republic strongly condemns this inhuman action perpetrated by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupying part of the territory of the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan. There can be no justification whatsoever for fire from various types of weapons being directed against a mediator in the region on a peace-keeping mission for purposes of the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

This is yet another indication that the Republic of Armenia does not aspire to a peaceful solution of the conflict.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex


Territory of Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, occupied by the Armenian Armed Forces
Kazakh district
AZERBAIJAN
Kazakh